place as a FORUM BRITTANICUM for the consecration of heroes and statesmen, for the encouragement of sculptural art (alas! too languid), and for the elevation of public taste.

Now, Sir, I have but one word to say of Leicester-square: this second open space, a point of confluence from various quarters of the town, has lain for years open, defiled, and a disgrace. Can this not be remedied? Some say it is private property; others that it cannot be built over. A peripatetic may sometimes see a mode of application for such a centre which will not occur to the parties beneficially concerned, as the looker-on at a game often perceives the errors of the players. Whether it be public or private property, it is clear that the opportunity should not be lost of converting it to an use equally profitable to those interested and beneficial to the panting denizens of this confined region.

It is to be hoped that the improvements meditated behind the National Gallery may include the design of a grand *strada* from that point to Leicester-square, which might then become, not only a great mart for commerce, in which it is making rapid strides, but the space itself be transformed into an ornament comporting in character with the magnificence which should be allied to the recollections of Trafalgar.

With the view of some such appropriation, allow me to suggest the wayward jotting of an idler. It is this. Excavate the whole square to a depth of 6 feet; sell the gravel—for such it is—at only two shillings a-load. The area is a trapezium, or figure of four unequal sides, presenting a frontage of nearly 700 feet; yet still the inequality would be perceptible only to an architectural eye.

Leave a sunken causeway, 13 feet wide, approached by descending flights, two at every angle. Build on every side a row of shops or stores, with ornate elevation rising 5 feet or 6 feet above the level of the adjacent street. Give to each a depth of at least 30 feet, with an area of 8 feet or 10 feet in the rear; and still in the centre you will have a parallelogram unappropriated of 50 feet by 90 feet. Cover these ranges with flagging or asphalte; raise suitable balustrades around; and here you have at once a distinguished plateau 40 feet wide, available for public recreation, susceptible of any decoration in statuary, conservative of the public health, and tributary to the increasing appetencies of prosperous trade.

In the centre, the statue (at least time honoured) might rest on its renewed and, perhaps, more elevated base; and water-works contribute to the enjoyment of the saunterer or the valetudinarian. It is manifest that the elevation of handsome ranges of shop-front and facia would not obstruct light, air, or view, whilst sufficient to indicate the emblems of business; and that the raised causeway, approached by steps and balustered bridges (one on each side) would lighten the general design.

Trusting that you will pardon the verboseness of what some may (at this fall) call my sybilline leaves, and impressed with the truth of an axiom derived from high authority, "A word spoken in due *season*, how good is it!" I venture at the present season on one hint more to the authorities on whom I have so often poured my unavailing advice. It is this:—The new parks have been purchased and inclosed,—aye, three years inclosed,—but not yet planted! Primrose-hill, the solace of the weary artisan, three years paled, is yet naked! Why not expend only one ONE HUNDRED pound-note in adorning with flowers, and shrubs, and forest trees, this only possible airy resource for the indigent, pent-up, Sunday-emancipated son or daughter of labour? It will not only gratify but humanise the million, as the contemplation of floral nature can soften neglected minds, and raise their souls to rational devotion.

Possibly, like other appeals to officials, this may be spurned; and, not being an *employé*, it may even be said—"What is that to thee:" nevertheless, again it is repeated, on the principle that what concerns the public is everybody's business, and of the oft-repeated maxim, "nihil alienum mihi puto qui sit," &c.

QUONDAM.

THE NEW CHURCHES IN WESTMINSTER.

ON the 8th instant, the foundation-stones of two new churches were laid in Westminster, to be dedicated respectively to St. Matthew and the Holy Trinity.

St. Matthew's will stand at the junction of Great Peter-street and St. Anne's-lane. The position presents no ordinary difficulties, being a site of very irregular form, literally buried in very miserable houses, and only offering very narrow frontages to two very poor streets. The tower, when built, will show in Peter-street, the east end of chancel in St. Anne's-lane. It was necessary entirely to cover the ground, and the largest practicable nave with ordinary aisles being insufficient, the architect, Mr. Scott, was obliged to add a second aisle on the south side, which must contain a small gallery for children. The accommodation is for 1,200 persons. The cost, exclusive of tower, 6,000*l.*; inclusive of the tower, 7,500*l.* or 8,000*l.* Mr. Myers is the builder. The materials are Kentish rag and Bath stone. The style is Transitional, between the geometrical and flowing, perhaps that of about 1310. On the north side can be no windows, owing to building nearly up to boundary. The light will be obtained chiefly from the end windows and the clerestory. The east window is of five lights, the west of six, the latter of considerable dimensions.

The chancel, which will face St. Anne's-lane, will be internally 40 feet by 23 feet 6 inches, and will be lighted by the east window of five lights, and by three windows on the south and one on the north side, the remainder of that side being occupied by a chancel, aisle, and vestry. The nave, with its aisles, will be internally 84 feet by 57 feet 6 inches, and will be of five bays, or arches, in length, and be chiefly lighted from the clerestory and from the large west window which obtains light from above the surrounding houses. The principal entrance is through the tower, which projects again southward from the third aisle, and faces Peter-street. There are also a western entrance and one from St. Anne's-lane.

Notwithstanding the lowness of the estimate there are as yet no funds for the tower beyond the ground story, though, in such a situation, the tower is more than ordinarily needed to show the church from a distance and prevent its being absolutely lost; and, being the nearest church (St. Margaret's excepted) to the Abbey, it ought to have a steeple of some dignity. We have not seen the design, but understand the steeple proposed is somewhat more than 200 feet in height.

It presents a curious contrast between public and individual munificence that, while in the same parish two other churches are being erected, one costing 25,000*l.* and the other 10,000*l.*, each paid for by private individuals, this, which trusts to public liberality, and only costs 8,000*l.*, after receiving from societies more than 4,000*l.*, if not 5,000*l.*, is to be left minus its tower for want of funds! The inhabitants of Westminster seem ready recipients but niggard dispensers of charity.

The Church of the Holy Trinity is to be erected on a plot of ground called Besborough Gardens, at the junction of the Belgrave and Vauxhall-bridge roads, at the sole expense of the Rev. W. H. E. Bentinck, archdeacon and Prebendary of Westminster. Mr. Pearson is the architect, and Messrs. Smith and Appleford are the builders.

We are told that this is to be a cross church, with transepts, chancel, and porches, the vestibule being at the north-east of the chancel. The style is Early Decorated, of the time of Edward I. and II. Length of the nave, including the tower, 84 feet; width, 19 feet 3 inches; across the transepts, extreme width, 72 feet; inside length of chancel, 40 feet 6 inches; width, 20 feet 9 inches; height under the nave from the floor to the point of the roof, 51 feet; chancel, 48 feet high, and transepts same height. The space within the tower is groined over in stone at the height of about 54 feet; having three windows, which are seen from the church, and throw a light into it, forming a lantern. The height from the ground line to the top of the tower is 93 feet; height to top of the cross from the spire, which springs from the tower, 100 feet; making a total of 193 feet high. There will be sedilia in the chancel on the south side. The eastern windows have seven lights, the western windows six lights, and the transept windows five lights each. The dressings are of Bath stone. The walls are externally faced with Bargate stone from the neighbourhood of Godalming. The roofs are constructed in deal, and covered on the outside with Staffordshire tiles of a brown colour. The seats in the nave will be all open, made of deal, and all free. The cost of the edifice will be about 10,000*l.* The church will accommodate 850, including about 400 children, all upon the ground, there being no galleries. It appears that it was necessary to dig for the foundation 20 feet deep from the surface.

THE LATE SIR R. MORRISON, ARCHITECT.

SIR RICHARD MORRISON, President of the Irish Institute of Architects, died on the 31st of October, at the age of 82, and was buried on the 7th inst. The funeral was attended by the members of the Institute and a large number of friends. He was the son of John Morrison, the architect, of Cork, and was originally intended for the church; ultimately, however, he was sent to Dublin, and became the pupil of Gandon, the well known architect of the courts of law, the custom-house, and other buildings in that city. Through his god-father, the Earl of Shannon, he obtained a Government appointment in the Ordnance department, but retained it only a short time, in consequence of reductions. He soon, however, got into practice, and executed a considerable number of buildings. His son, William Vitruvius Morrison, who died at the early age of 44, was for a time in partnership with him.* Sir Richard was last employed for Lord Longford, on a design for a Gothic mansion, and was also superintending some alterations for the Earl of Howth. He has left considerable property, including an extensive library of architectural works. He was knighted by Earl de Grey.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

MIDDLETON *v.* NASH.

THIS was an action brought in the Whitechapel County Court to recover a quarter's rent for apartments occupied by the defendant at a rental of 30*l.* a-year. The tenancy commenced at Michaelmas, 1848, and in March the defendant, in accordance with the terms of his agreement, gave a quarter's notice to quit. The notice was not objected to, and the plaintiff paid his rent up to Midsummer, and left the premises two months previous to the expiration of that quarter; but the landlord refused to accept the key, and now sought to recover a quarter's rent up to Michaelmas, still holding the defendant liable for the next twelve months. The defendant observed, that he thought it a case of extreme oppression, more particularly as the plaintiff had refused to accept a tenant; and, upon referring to a "cheap" abstract of the Landlord and Tenants' Act, submitted that, if the notice was informal, the landlord was bound to object to it at the time.—His Honour: Not at all. There is no doubt it was intended that a quarter's notice should at any time be sufficient to put an end to the tenancy; but the legal construction of the agreement is, that the tenancy does not expire till the end of the year.

The defendant said the plaintiff had put a bill up in shop window to let the apartments, and wished his honour to inform him if that was not an admission of the legality of the notice?

His Honour—Certainly not: it is so much the better for you. If he lets the apartments you are no longer liable.—The plaintiff said he would be satisfied if the defendant would pay half the ensuing quarter in addition to the present claim.—His Honour advised the defendant to accede to these terms, observing that it was a case of great hardship, but the law was against him.

Ordered that the present claim be paid at 3*l.* a quarter.

* A memoir of the late Mr. W. Vitruvius Morrison will be found in Weale's "Quarterly Papers on Architecture," with a list of the buildings executed by himself, and in conjunction with his father.

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